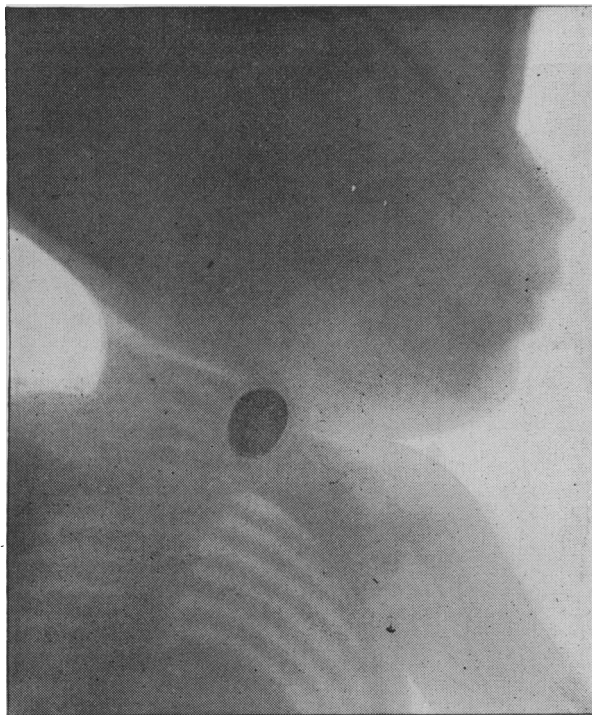


FOREIGN BODY IN THE OESOPHAGUS: LOCALISATION BY X RAYS: SUCCESSFUL REMOVAL.

By NATHAN RAW, M.D.,
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A CHILD, aged 2 years, was brought to the hospital on October 22nd with a history of having swallowed a halfpenny some hours previously. On examination, nothing abnormal could be seen or felt, although the child appeared to have been in great distress, having been constantly retching and vomiting.

Next day I examined the child with the aid of the cryptoscope, and the outline of the coin could be most distinctly seen apparently opposite the fourth, fifth, and sixth cervical vertebrae. The coin was lying vertically in the oesophagus.



As it was desirable to have a skiagraph and the child could not be prevailed upon to keep still, a comfortable bed was prepared on the table and the child laid upon it with its head upon a feather pillow. He was coaxed to sleep by the sister and nurse, and when sleeping soundly a 12" x 10" plate was quietly slipped under the pillow and the current turned into the focus tube, which was placed above at a distance of 9 inches. Keeping my hand on the commutator, I was prepared to switch off the current as soon as the child awoke, which it did in nine minutes. The skiagraph was taken through a thick pillow and two layers of blankets.

Next morning, under chloroform, I removed the coin through the mouth with the aid of a long pair of laryngeal forceps. The coil used gave a 6-inch spark with a current of 10 volts.

GIFT OF A HOME FOR FEEBLE-MINDED GIRLS.—Sir Thomas Storey, of Lancaster, has offered to build on the estate of the Royal Albert Asylum, Lancaster, a home for forty feeble-minded girls who have been trained in the institution, and who will be occupied in its domestic and nursing service. The Committee of the Asylum has resolved to call the new building The Storey Home for Feeble-minded Girls in connection with the Royal Albert Asylum.

THE EMOLUMENTS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

IN view of the election of the new Direct Representatives to the General Medical Council, the result of which will be made known next week, it is of interest to turn to the subject of the emoluments received by the members of the Council for their services. A full and complete statement in connection therewith appears in the last volume of the official minutes published by the Council at the end of last June. It appears from the table showing the fees and other expenses for attendance at the meetings that the members derive payment from two sources—first, for their attendance at the general meetings, and secondly, for their duties in connection with the Executive Committee, in which nine members take part.

For the year ending December 31st, 1895, the maximum sum for attendance at the general meetings was £78 15s., and this was received by twenty-two out of the thirty members, thus showing that the majority on the Council were not lax in putting in an appearance. Four members received £73 10s., while two—namely, the Rev. Dr. Haughton and Dr. Kidd, both from Ireland—were paid only £47 5s., which were the lowest sums. In addition to the fees for actual attendances, the extra-metropolitan members of the Council receive both travelling and hotel expenses. Over and above these, fifteen of the extra-metropolitan members were paid 20 guineas and two 10 guineas each under the head of "additional," but there is nothing in the table to show the nature of the services for which these payments were made.

THE TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

A scrutiny of the payments under this heading reveals one or two facts of interest. In the first place, the maximum of the travelling expenses is recorded as eighteen guineas. This sum is paid to nine members, all of them hailing from over the Border. That is to say, the representatives from the whole of Scotland receive the same. It apparently matters not where the Scotch representative may happen to reside; he still receives the same sum. Thus the representative from Aberdeen is paid no more on account of travelling expenses than his colleagues in Edinburgh. Another curious feature is that there is a difference of six guineas between the payment to the Scotch members and the member who resides in Newcastle, inasmuch as Dr. Philipson is recorded as having been paid the maximum sum of twelve guineas for his travelling expenses. Clearly, then, it is better to live at Edinburgh than either at Newcastle or Aberdeen, so far as the payment for travelling expenses for attendance at the General Medical Council is concerned. But how is this maximum estimate of eighteen guineas arrived at? We cannot profess to know. During the year 1895 there were two sessions, lasting fifteen days; in addition there were four meetings of the Executive Committee, which were held during the sessions in question. The fare—first-class return to Edinburgh—is 109s. 6d., roughly five guineas; thus two journeys to London and back would not, at this rate, amount to more than £11. But eighteen guineas are paid, and upon what basis is the sum calculated? Attention may now be directed to the payment of the travelling expenses of the Irish representatives. The maximum of these is 16 guineas. Then the representative for the Crown, who lives in Leeds, receives 8 guineas for his travelling expenses. The first-class return fare to Leeds is £2 11s. 6d.; for two sessions attendances the train journeys would amount to twice this, or, roughly, 5 guineas. How, then, is the sum of 8 guineas arrived at? Again, the member who resides at Birmingham receives 6 guineas for travelling expenses. But the first-class return fare to the Midland capital is £1 13s. 6d., or twice this amount, £3 7s., leaving an exact balance to the good of £2 19s.

THE HOTEL EXPENSES.

The hotel expenses of the extra-metropolitan representatives are also worthy of investigation. Here the maximum is 17 guineas, a sum which, reckoning the duration of the two sessions at a total of fifteen days, works out at about the rate of one guinea per day. Perhaps this must be regarded as a proper allowance. It may also be said that the allowance